

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KATHMA 02068 070542Z

15

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-02 /034 W

----- 047173

R 070525Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1600

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 2068

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, NP

SUBJECT: 18 PANCHAYAT MEMBERS CALL FOR FREE FRANCHISE

1. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN COPY, WE UNDERSTAND THAT 18 MEMBERS OF NATIONAL PANCHAYAT HAVE SUBMITTED MEMORANDUM TO CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM COMMISSION IN WHICH THEY ASK THAT UNIVERSAL ADULT SUFFRAGE BE INTRODUCED IN NEPAL. ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF SIGNATORIES ARE SAID TO INCLUDE CALL FOR MAKING COUNCIL OF MINISTERS -LOYAL TO KING BUT RESPONSIBLE TO PEOPLE," OPENING SESSIONS OF PANCHAYAT TO PEOPLE, AND ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES "IN REALITY, NOT THEORY" FOR PEOPLE OF NEPAL TO EXERCISE FUNDAMENTAL POLITICAL RIGHTS.

2. COMMENT: EIGHTEEN SIGNATORIES, INCLUDING VICE CHAIRMAN NATIONAL PANCHAYAT DAMBAR BAHADUR BASNYAT, ARE PRIMARILY FROM KATHMANDU VALLEY REGION. THE CALL FOR UNIVERSAL FRANCHISE IS SOMEWHAT UNEXPECTED SINCE MOST POLITICIANS HERE, EVEN IF SUPPORTIVE OF IDEA, HAD COME TO BELIEVE IT TOO RADICAL AT THIS STAGE OF NASCENT REFORM AND THEREFORE UNACCEPTABLE TO PALACE. REACTION OF REFORM COMMISSION TO IDEAS IS UNKNOWN SINCE MEMBERS IN RECENT WEEKS HAVE BEEN OFF IN COUNTRYSIDE SOLICITING IDEAS OF LOCAL LEADERS.  
CARGO

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, SUFFRAGE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975KATHMA02068  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750159-0747  
**From:** KATHMANDU  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750574/aaaacprc.tel  
**Line Count:** 51  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 1  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 AUG 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <24 NOV 2003 by greeneet>  
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**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** 18 PANCHAYAT MEMBERS CALL FOR FREE FRANCHISE  
**TAGS:** PINT, NP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006